

[SIDE CONVERSATION]

- All right. You're good to go. Go.

- Oh, hello. This is Judy Reeves. And this is the [? G ?] [? Cam ?] Hour with our history segment. And we have a very special comedian here today.

- How are you?

- She's Nancy Ford. Everybody knows who Nancy is. I don't really have to introduce her.

- Oh, my God. Hello. Hello, KPFT. Hello, drunk drivers. Be careful.

- Yeah. Always be careful. They can't hear the end of the show if they're not careful.

- I know.

- All right.

- That's the best part.

- So there you have it. Truly, truly. And there are those who actually sit in their car, wait till we end, and then say, thank God it's over. I can go in the house and pee now.

- [LAUGHS] Oh, well.

- Well, there are those.

- What an endorsement. What an endorsement.

- It works. It works. So you're here tonight to talk about something that's going on in your life in the very near future, which unfortunately, Jimmy and I are both going to miss.

- Well, not necessarily. You're just going to miss the inaugural show. I'm back in show business.

- Yay. It's about time.

- Thank you. Yes. After what I figured out-- what I thought was just a couple-of-year absence, turned out to be-- oh, my spine. I've got to straighten it out.

[LAUGHTER]

- What turned out to be what I thought was just a couple-of-year absence from doing *The Dyke Show* turned out to be a seven-year absence.

- Yeah.

- I didn't realize that--

- It's like a seven-year itch. Yeah.

- --it had been that long. But I'd been-- if those of you who are hearing this who've been around the Houston Gulf Coast Texas area, I've done comedy for 20 years, done gay and lesbian comedy throughout the region mostly for, not only for charities but loving doing the emceeing for the-- people like [INAUDIBLE] and God, whatever.

- Everywhere. Everywhere.

- I was thinking about this the other day. I'm kind of the Regis Philbin of our community.

- Yeah, you are.

- Not particularly good-looking, not particularly talented, but always available and bathed. [LAUGHTER] Ready to go.

- I didn't know he was bathed, so what can I say?

- Ready to go. So here I am. And like 20 years later, it's still working. And so I'm bringing *The Dyke Show* back. I'm working with Women's Music House Concerts. And so that's a pretty generic name, but Sandy Gorfield and Arden Eversmeyer, two of our most wonderful founding mothers here in the community, do house concerts to keep the tradition of women's music going.

And I'm thrilled to say September 22 is my night for it. I've never done one of their shows. So I'm just-- couldn't be more excited about it. And it's sold out.

- There you go.

- All right.

- I know. It's crazy. It's standing-room-only lesbians. That's the only thing I've ever wanted in my life, to walk into a house and have standing-room only, have it full of standing-room-only lesbians.

- Well, I don't recommend that you wait seven years and do a show every seven years to see if that happens.

- It can be worth the wait.

- Come on. We need you more often than that.

- Well, thank you very much. So I'm really, really, really excited about it. But it turns out activity begets activity. And there's going to be another show coming up before the end of the year, *In the Heights*, and I'd love to come back on the show and talk to you about that.

- Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

- You were no stranger to this show.

- No.

- This month marks--

- Seven years.

- --it's 25th anniversary.

- 25 years of *After Hours*?

- Yes. And you have been on this show when it was single-digit-years old.

- Oh, I know it. It used to be one of my favorite things to come over, frankly, after I would do a show somewhere or just after a night out at dancing at the clubs.

- What do you think, we move the station? It's still there. What happened to you?

- Well, I'm watching *Saturday Night Live*, generally speaking, at 10:30 and long gone by the time you guys are on the air, I'm sorry to say. In fact--

- Well, I'll have to get your cell number.

- Let's-- [LAUGHS] everybody got it. Let's be honest with our listening audience. We are prerecording this interview.

- Yes.

- This is actually being done on a Saturday afternoon in the light of day. So I'm still not--

- Well, it's almost exactly a 12-hour time slot. We're doing it at 1:20 in the afternoon.

- It's like we're in London or something. Yeah. But God, I remember those days. Oh, my God. What fun of coming over.

- You never knew who was going to be there.

- You never knew.

- Well, that hasn't changed.
- Rainbow or Ray or--
- Somebody from Two Nice Girls.
- --Gigi or whoever.
- Yeah.
- Gigi still does her segment.
- It's great.
- Such a good time. So this is a little bit different doing it in the light of day and all. And I did do three shots of tequila before I came out.
- Thank God.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- With my Whataburger breakfast. It was delicious.
- That's the only way I could do a Whataburger breakfast is with few shots of tequila.
- Ooh. Oh, girl.
- Oh, did I say that loud?
- Yes.
- Oh, darn. My mic was on.
- Judy, never change, dear. Never change.
- Oh, lord, no. No, they wouldn't know me if I changed.
- So what's in your show?
- Oh, a little bit of-- like you, like both of you, Judy and Jimmy, we have had front-row seats to the most exciting cultural revolution in history.
- No question about that.
- Hasn't it been amazing?
- Is this not true?
- Yes.

- I mean, when I consider where we were when I was just developing breast buds. And compared to the puppies now, it's like the entire evolution revolution.

- She has puppies. I have old dogs.

- Well, the cute little noses. They love to run at the end of the day, don't they? Just let them out and let them loose and let them run.

- Yeah, because at the beginning of *After Hours*, the theme was come out, come out, come out of the closet.

- I did.

- And it came to a point where most people were out of the closet.

- I know.

- And now we're focusing on same-sex marriage.

- I know. It's--

- Unbelievable.

- --remarkable. So that's what the show is. I talk about some of the extraordinary experiences that I've had privilege to witness and be part of and the people who have influenced me and the people who have vexed me and our community. And it's comedy. It's music. It's history. It's fun. It's poetry because I am a lesbian, and that's the law.

[LAUGHTER]

So I've tried to put a lot of my original tunes, comedy tunes and whatnot in, not necessarily a chronological order, but it's kind of a 30-year snapshot of lesbian history seen through my eyes.

- Can't wait for that.

- That is so great because younger lesbians didn't get to go through that. And they have no idea. No idea.

- Pardon me. Pardon me. Yeah. And like you said before, it's almost as if we've worked ourselves out of jobs.

- Yes!

- And it's--

- Oh, what a shame.

- Well, and yes, and it's bittersweet because there's a part of me that-- like when the Chick-fil-A thing came up. It was so inspiring to see these younger people, the younger women, younger men get all riled up about Chick-fil-A when I remember that, oh, this was-- oh, I don't want to say that it was nonchalant, but it was something that we were involved in, that sort of thing, every week.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Yeah, it's kind of like, oh, yeah, that stuff again.

- That kind of-- if we weren't-- well, you know what I'm talking about. The various fundraisers.

- Well, we hardly ever-- we didn't win very often.

- We didn't.

- No, but we fought every weekend.

- Yeah, there you go.

- Weekend warriors and beyond.

- And beyond, yes.

- And that's so true. So it is so heartening. It's so rewarding to see the strides that we're making now.

- Can actually get excited about something. It's important.

- I mean, a sitting president of the United States to endorse same-sex marriage? It's such an exciting time. It is such an exciting time.

- It is.

- Did you watch the conventions?

- Oh--

- Every moment of it, he watched. I was in [INAUDIBLE].

- And I was in tears for most of it. Those speeches were incredible.

- I didn't watch the Democratic Convention. I watched some of it. I watched Bill Clinton's speech, who, well-- oh, I forgot. This is *After Hours*. I would do Bill Clinton.

[LAUGHTER]

I would absolutely do Bill Clinton. I don't care. I don't wear a dress. I have nothing that he can stain. He's just amazing. And of course, Michelle. But I mostly watch the Republican conventions because they were so funny.

- That's where you get your humor from.

- God, Ann Romney. Ann Romney, when she was talking about in the early years of their marriage when they were folding down the ironing board for their dining-room table, and their desk was a board, a door on two sawhorses.

- Yeah, right.

- Eating pasta and tuna fish. For one thing, it's not called pasta and tuna fish if you're poor. It's called tuna noodle casserole.

- Tuna noodle casserole.

- There you go.

- I was raised on it.

- Come on. The door on the sawhorses.

[LAUGHTER]

The ironing board. That was not their marriage. That was Laverne and Shirley's apartment.

[LAUGHTER]

- Hey, wait a minute. I just moved out of a house with that ironing board in my kitchen.

- Ann, Ann, come on. Don't kid a kidder, Ann. So yeah, I've been enjoying that. So this is the kind of thing we'll be doing at *The Dyke Show*.

- Great.

- Talking about all kinds of stuff. And I've written some new material. And you might be-- I'd love to do a song if we've got some time.

- I would love that.

- I brought the old girl with me.

[STRUMMING GUITAR]

- Can't travel without her.
- The only music I have for you is on a cassette from way back.
- Oh, my goodness.
- [INAUDIBLE]
- At least it's not an 8-track. Not a 78.
- [INAUDIBLE]
- Going to sing a song about a lesbian. That's my 78 RPM.
- Careful Wes, don't listen, honey. It's OK. We'll let you laugh.
- You can always tell if you're succeeding because Wes is just purple and losing [INAUDIBLE].
- Oh, yes. I am. I'm very much so.

[STRUMMING GUITAR]

- Oh, God. First of all, thank you, again, for doing this with me and for accommodating me, not making me come out after 1 o'clock in the morning.
- Well, this time.
- Oh, my God.
- You're one of the few people that we would do this for.
- Exactly.
- You know how we like live radio.
- You're so good-- this is as live as it needs to get.

[LAUGHTER]

- We could get in serious trouble live on the air.
- Any more live, I don't know. Yeah. I mean, I haven't even-- well, I won't say the word I haven't said so--
- There you go. See? And we can edit if you do.

- I know. Don't say it. So [PLAYING GUITAR] I've played guitar for some time, as you know, in the lesbian bars, and it's always been a good friend to me. And now that I am getting older, I'm feeling my roots. I'm feeling the inspirations of where it all came from. And I wrote a song recently for my grandmother because she was one of the most powerful influences on me. She taught me so many things. And she told me so many secrets. And now I'd like to share some with you.

- OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) My grandma has a jewelry box. She locked it with a key. She told me that when I grew up she'd give that box to me. The hinges were all rusty. The lock would always stick. So with that lovely jewelry box, she shared this little trick.

Diddle little little little open. That's what my grandma'd say. Diddle little little little open, you'll soon be on your way. Diddle little little little open, diddle once or twice a day. Diddle little little little, yes, diddle little little and all will be OK.

She was very wise.

You can diddle with some help or can diddle all alone. You can do diddle in the kitchen. You can diddle on the phone. You can diddle in the ice cream shop with fudge and maraschinos. Do you know where I'm going with this? [INAUDIBLE] diddle while you're chopping jalapenos.

Diddle little little little open. That's what my grandma'd say. Diddle little little little open. You'll soon be on your way. Diddle little little little open, diddle once or twice a day. Diddle little little [INAUDIBLE]. Diddle little little and all will be OK.

- Whoa.

- I'm not done.

- Oh.

(SINGING) Now I'm so much older, and my box is older still. I seldom ever open it. Perhaps one day I will. After all this time, I have to wonder what's inside. I really hope that nothing's ever crawled in there and died. Everybody diddle.

Diddle little little little open. That's what my grandma'd say. Yeah. Diddle little little little open. You'll soon be on your way. Hey! Diddle little little little open, diddle once or twice a day. Diddle little little, yes, diddle little little and all will be OK. Why don't you diddle little little little, yeah, diddle little little, and all will be OK. Diddle little little little, hey.

[LAUGHTER]

- I think she knew my grandmother.
- What a grandma.
- [INAUDIBLE]
- I wish I could tell that story, but I can't.
- Oh, so yeah. That's one of the newer songs that we'll be doing.
- I like that.
- I love your grandmother.
- Thank you.
- And it's a group participation, right?
- It's my intention to have the entire room full of lesbians diddling with me.

[LAUGHTER]

- Trust me. They will.
- Set the bar high.
- That's right.
- There you go.
- That's right.
- That's what I say.
- There you go.

- Jimmy will never be the same. I'm not sure Wes and Chris will either.

- Oh, my God. It's good for them. Once in a while, the women take over the studio. That works. It works.

- So can I come back when I have the date for the subsequent show *n the Heights*?

- Absolutely. Absolutely. And hopefully I'll be in town for it.

- I certainly hope so. And there are a couple other things coming up too actually. A Sister's Decadent Dessert is coming up in October. It's that Sunday. I think it's the 7th.

- Yeah. We've been promoting it already.

- Is that Sunday the 7th?

- Thank you so much.

- It's their big yearly fundraiser. And it is worth every penny.

- It's a sweet deal.

- That's how I'm going to get Jimmy on the plane to come home because I'll remind him now the day after we get home-- and of course, he eats himself into oblivion. He's in a diabetic coma for a week after that.

- Are you a [INAUDIBLE] boy?

- There you go.

- That's how I'm getting him home is to promise him that.

- Yeah. That'll be fun. So I'm emceeing that. And Jacinta is performing. And they're raffling off a cruise from Aquafest.

- Yeah.

- So big, big raffle items this year, iPod, iBook, I something.

- It's always I something these days.

- I want it. That's the point. I want it.

- So yeah, doing work with the sisters and then, of course, always working with [INAUDIBLE] and Kindred Spirits. And *OutSmart* continues. *OutSmart* is entering its 20th year of publication next year.

- Fabulous.

- So proud of that. And I appreciate all of you keep reading and keep reading "What a World."

- Keep collecting.

- I remember the early days. And there were doubts that it would ever continue. It was on and off and on and off. And in the beginning there was money problems.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- But as our community opened up and came out more, I think that really helped the magazine.

- Exactly. And it's been my privilege to be with *OutSmart*, well, from the beginning, certainly. And what a crazy, crazy trip it's been, writing with *OutSmart* and working with--

- What a world!

- What a world.

- That's my favorite column.

- Thank you. I appreciate your reading the column. That's even older than *OutSmart*.

- Yes.

- Yeah, that predates *OutSmart* by about four years. So yeah, it's just been my incredible, incredible privilege to work with our community all these years. And it's a family affair, as they say.

- It is that.

- Yeah. It was tough. I'm sure it was tough going at first because working in the community meant you didn't make as much money as other people.

- Well, it also meant you had to be out and about.

- Well, definitely. And I haven't gotten rich. And I'm no kind of mogul or anything like that. I've eaten a lot of pasta and tuna fish.

[LAUGHTER]

My ironing board is a fold-down table. Oh, please. Vote for me. So yeah, it's been not necessarily the easiest road. There have been our ups and downs.

- In this community you're kind of-- you can be a mogul, or you can be an icon. So you chose the latter, and there's nothing wrong with that, girl.

- Oh, my.

- No, you have a following. You not only have a following, you have people who vie to be like you. They don't want to be you. They don't want to take your place. They don't want to replace you on a stage or anything. But you've got a name that people follow.

- Well, that's very, very kind of you. And--

- Hey, nobody can take a seven-year absence and come back and do a sell-out house the first night. There's got to be something to that.

- There you go.

- Wow. Well, thank you. Well, thank you very much. I am surrounded by love. And I love my community. And again, it's my honor. It's my absolute privilege and honor.

- We can just teach you to stay up past midnight. [INAUDIBLE] Hey, if I can do it, you can do it.

- Funny.

- But we'll have you back.

- Thank you.

- We may even have you back at the right time of the day.

- [LAUGHS]

- We'll work on that.

- I'll do my best. I'll do my best.

- We'll work on that. But definitely send me emails. Keep me posted on what's going on so I can shoot it out to these guys.

- And anyone out there in the *After Hours* listening land, if you want to keep up with me, just find me on Facebook. It's facebook.com/nancyford.790.

- 790.

- Nancyford.790. Or just look up Nancy Ford, The Dyke Show.

- I bet Nancy Ford will come up.

- You'll find it.

- OK.

- All right. Well, thank you for being in our living room this afternoon.

- Thank you all. What's for lunch?

- Yeah. Careful, I'll bring the cat downstairs. Thanks.

- Thanks again, you guys.

- Take care.

- Bye bye.